Editor, New Republic
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Washington, D.C.

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
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Dear Editor,

If you want your columns used in George McMillan's personal vendettas and a review for you used as the basis for pretext calls to those he clearly intends to assault in your magazine, then fine - it is working out that way. So far.

It struck me as odd when George phoned me several days ago to tell me he is doing a review of the newest assassination paranoia, by David Lifton. George then inquired about my health and then by-the-wayed into questions about me that have nothing at all to do with the Lifton book or a review of it. When it became apparent that George was not asking me anything about the review or the book or its author I asked him when he would get to the supposed purpose of his call. "I've run out of money," he replied. I asked him if he'd send me a copy of what he was up to and he said, "Nope." I told him he is a bad little boy. As he is, except chronologically.

He phoned at least two others, using the same pretext, and in no case asking questions in any way related to a review of the Lifton book.

George is an assassination bankrupt and it rankles him. So he selects as his enemies those who do not agree with his preconceptions. When he was boasting about what he referred to as his "happy" contract for a book on James Earl Ray, he also boasted about not needing to concern himself with the facts of that assassination. He tried to bribe the Ray family to do his bidding and was conned with some regularity. If you are among those who regard George as an authentic American liberal or a believer in peoples' rights, let me know and I'll send you a copy of the contract he tried to get the Rays to sign. It is incredible that any American writer would make such demands - of those who were in distress and not aware of the norms or legal rights.

Maybe George doesn't like me because I did what he didn't do, and my work stacks. I did investigate the King assassination. I did try to make our system of justice work. I did the investigating for the successful Ray habeas corpus petition and for the

unsuccessful evidentiary hearing that followed. This was an effort to make the system work, not to corrupt it by bribery of the indigent.

George is hardly impartial on the JFK assassination. He laid one of his earlier eggs in Dallas, when he flunked out for NBC. And what he couldn't see and didn't have the ability to find just doesn't exist for him and, he would persuade, for all, in his biased writings.

The two other calls of which I heard promptly are to the two Washington lawyers who handled Ray's appeals pro bono. This has to do with a review of the Lifton book?

It is a sad day for the New Republic if your reviewers make subterfuge phone calls and you accept it and if you can't get anyone except an embittered and blinded partisan to write reviews on controversial subjects.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg